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*Minutes  
Special Meeting  
Mayor and Council  
December 12, 2005*

*A Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:33pm*

**Council Present:** Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica, Councilwoman Heveran, Councilman LaBianco, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo, Council President Ryan,

**Council Absent:**

**Also Present:** Council-Elect Hawkins, Council-Elect Raucchi, Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney(arrived at 9:10pm, Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Ryan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.

Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exits to those assembled.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Cherchi appointed Barbara Marchant to the Historic Preservation Commission as an Alternate I member with a term expiring December 31, 2006.

Mayor Cherchi asked for the appointment of the Judge that had been tabled to un-table. The motion to un-table the motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Council President Ryan. All in favor- none opposed.

Mayor Cherchi asked for a nomination for Judge. Councilwoman Mitrani nominated Judge DeSheplo, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani and Ryan voted yes. Councilman Puzzo was absent. Motion carried.

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48 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
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50 Mr. Martin Monaco -352 Highwood Avenue: Mr. Monaco read a portion of a letter to  
51 the Mayor and Council. Mayor Cherchi thanked Mr. Monaco for his comments.  
52

53 **RESOLUTIONS**

54 The Borough Administrator pulled Resolutions 05-0282 and 283.  
55 Councilwoman Dwarica questioned Resolution 05-281 whether the money was being  
56 transferred to Swim Pool Surplus or General Surplus. The Borough Administrator stated  
57 it could be done either way.  
58

59 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to pass Resolution 05-278 through 05-281,  
60 seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran,  
61 LaBianco, Mitrani, and Ryan voted yes. Councilman Puzzo was absent. Resolutions  
62 approved.  
63

64 Resolution 05-282 – The Borough Administrator would recommended keeping the  
65 Performance Bond in the bid. Councilman Elect Hawkins asked for an explanation. The  
66 Borough Administrator explained that it is similar to an insurance policy. Councilman  
67 LaBianco expressed concern that there was only one bidder. The Borough Administrator  
68 explained that the specifications were reviewed and expanded and the notice was  
69 published in the paper. The Council expressed concern about the low trade-in value. The  
70 Governing Body discussed ways to possibly sell or donate the truck. Councilwoman  
71 Dwarica asked about the boat? Chief Dunn explained the necessity for the boat. After a  
72 brief discussion by the members of the Governing Body, the boat would be included in  
73 the purchase of the rescue truck. Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to approve  
74 Resolution 05-282 with the boat and the performance bond, seconded by Councilman  
75 Puzzo. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Puzzo and  
76 Ryan voted yes. Resolution approved.  
77

78 Resolution 05-283 – This resolution was pulled by the Borough Administrator due to the  
79 fact that the CFO did not certify that funds were available. A discussion was held  
80 regarding the need for a change in cell phones. This will be held until 2006.  
81

82 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

83 a. Council Committees (Mayor Cherchi) – Mayor Cherchi asked Councilman  
84 Puzzo if he would report the choices of the Council. Mayor Cherchi stated the  
85 Real Estate and Insurance Committee should consider looking into the various  
86 pieces of property that the Governing Body has been approached to purchase for  
87 example, the Fort Lee Road/Rte. 46 property. Insurance costs are very high.  
88 Councilman Puzzo stated he was hoping to have more time before Reorganization  
89 to finalize committee choices. Mayor Cherchi would like to discuss the  
90 appointments. Councilman Puzzo distributed a list. Mayor Cherchi read the  
91 proposed Council Committee Appointments.  
92

93 b. Reorganization/Swearing In (Preference of Council Elect) Mayor Cherchi  
94 asked the new Council members their preference. Mayor Cherchi explained the  
95 way it has been done in the last couple of years. Council-Elect Hawkins and  
96 Raucci will meet and advise the Mayor of their decision.  
97

98 c. Meeting of December 19<sup>th</sup> (Councilwoman Heveran) - Mayor Cherchi asked  
99 the Governing Body if anyone had a problem with canceling the Meeting of the  
100 19<sup>th</sup>, no one had objection to canceling the meeting of December 19<sup>th</sup>. Meeting  
101 will be canceled and noticed by the Borough Clerk  
102

103 d. Fire Department Exhaust (Borough Administrator) The Borough Administrator  
104 reported that she has new information on new equipment from the League of  
105 Municipalities Convention. She will be in contact with the vendors to come in and  
106 do an analysis on possible improvements. Councilwoman Heveran reported she  
107 also saw a demonstration on exhaust systems at the League of Municipalities  
108 Conference.  
109

110 e. Review of Draft of Website Ordinance Mayor Cherchi The Ordinance will be  
111 introduced in the beginning of 2006.  
112

113 f. Building on Fort Lee Road and Rte. 46 (Mayor Cherchi) The Borough  
114 Administrator reported that the real estate agent told her it is proposed for a 6  
115 floor medical office building. Councilman Puzzo feels that the intersection is  
116 already a hazard now. Perhaps, a light should be put there, and maybe he Borough  
117 should have a traffic study done. Mayor Cherchi feels that the State will have a  
118 role in reviewing the traffic. The main question is: “does the Borough want to  
119 legally oppose it.” A discussion was held on the options available to the  
120 Governing Body.  
121

122 **NEW BUSINESS**

123 a. Pay to Play Law (Please bring Copy Previously Distributed) The Borough  
124 Clerk gave an overview of the Pay to Play Law. The Borough Administrator told  
125 the Council of a newly enacted law regarding Pay to Play.  
126  
127

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131 **CORRESPONDENCE**  
132

133 Request for erecting Menorah on Borough Annex Property.  
134 Resolution 05-284 – Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to approve the Menorah on  
135 the Annex, seconded by Councilman Puzzo. Roll call vote; Councilwoman Dwarica,  
136 Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolution approved.  
137

138 Councilwoman Heveran inquired as to why the Work Session was changed to a Special  
139 Meeting. Mayor Cherchi explained that the meeting had been advertised as Work Session  
140 with possible action.  
141

142 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
143

144 Frank Raucci 78 Hawthorne Terrace – Mr. Raucci brought the Governing Body up to  
145 speed with the renovations at Moore’s Hardware.  
146

147 Councilperson Dwarica made a motion to go into closed session seconded by  
148 Councilperson Ryan; all in favor none opposed.  
149

150 Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to come  
151 out of Closed Session. All in favor, none opposed.  
152

153 Resolution 05-286 – Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan to appoint  
154 the Borough Administrator as Acting Zoning Official for the remainder of 2005 at no  
155 additional pay. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Puzzo and  
156 Ryan voted yes. Resolution approved.  
157

158 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. All  
159 in favor none opposed. Meeting Adjourned at 9:45pm  
160

161 Respectfully Submitted,  
162  
163  
164

165 Fran Lehmann  
166 Borough Clerk